

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **H3776**

(Doc. No. 20236sd07)

TO:	The Honorable Robert E. "Bob" Walker, Chairperson, House Committee on Education and Public Works		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Trey Kannaday, Allan Kincaid, Earle Powell		
DATE:	February 5, 2008	SBD:	2007292

AUTHOR:	Representative Gullick	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	5-7-12
SUBJECT:	School Resource Officers		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

A Cost to the General Fund (See Below)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

A Cost of Federal and/or Other Funds (See Below)

BILL SUMMARY:

House Bill 3776 mandates that the governing body of a municipality or county must provide a school resource officer (SRO) to each middle or high school that has not been assigned a school resource officer. The Bill further requires the expulsion of students for at least one year who commit certain criminal offenses. Local school officials are required to report evidence of gang activity and provide immunity to officials who act to prevent school-related crimes. The Bill mandates the establishment of alternative schools in districts where they are not yet established and for which there is a justified need. Finally, beginning on July 1, 2008, students who have been expelled or suspended from school also may attend alternative schools in the manner and under the conditions provided by the State Department of Education.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

There is a fiscal impact associated with several sections of the Bill. Cost estimates for each section are summarized below.

Section 1 - 5-7-12

The State Department of Education estimates there are 41 schools (37 middle schools and 4 high schools) that were not provided a school resource officer (SRO). SDE estimates the cost for hiring 41 SRO's to be \$1,705,600 including fringe benefits (\$41,600 per officer).

Section 5 - 59-63-1120

This section provides that if a local law enforcement agency is requested to conduct a search with drug dogs and does not possess such dogs, SLED shall provide the dogs to be used in the search. The actual cost to SLED will depend on the number of instances where such searches are requested and occur. The cost per search team to include an officer and dog are estimated at \$65,900 in recurring expenses for salary, fringe benefits and other operating as well as non-recurring expenses of \$58,725 for a vehicle and other equipment. SLED anticipates as many as four (4) additional teams may be needed.

Section 6 - 59-63-1410

SDE estimates this section of the Bill will have no fiscal impact for that agency. This section states that SDE, within available funds, shall establish alternative schools in districts where they are not yet established and for which there is a justified need. Currently, all 85 SC school districts have developed alternative school programs that serve students in lieu of expulsions, behavioral issues, and for academic assistance.

Section 7 - 59-63-1420

The State Department of Education (SDE) indicates 3,100 students were expelled in FY 2005-06. Assuming 2,000 of these students re-entered school under this provision there would be an impact on Education Finance Act (EFA) appropriations which can be estimated at \$5,426,432 (2,000 students X 1.25 WPU X \$2,578 BSC X .70 State portion X 1.2028 for related EFA Fringe). Transportation costs are not readily determinable since these students may require special accommodations including increased security measures. However, direct operating costs (excluding depreciation) are estimated at \$200 per student, which would result in minimum additional transportation costs of approximately \$400,000.

For fiscal impact estimate purposes, it is assumed one additional classroom would be needed in each of the 85 school districts for 2,000 students. Construction costs for a portable are \$75,000. Assuming each district would construct one portable, the capital costs associated with this section could be estimated at \$6,375,000. The average teacher salary, including fringe benefits, is \$63,087 (paid with state, EIA and local school and local school district funds). Assuming each district would hire one additional teacher, the total cost in additional compensation is estimated at \$5,362,395 (a portion of which would be covered with EFA funds referenced above). In addition, a portion of the teacher salaries is covered by Education Improvement Act (EIA) Teacher Salary Supplement funding. EIA Teacher Salary Supplement funding for 85 additional teachers is estimated at \$148,325. The impact on the General Fund of the State is at the General Assembly's discretion since the construction and teacher salary costs associated with this section could be covered with State and/or local school district funding.

Recapitulation

Total identifiable recurring cost associated with this Bill is estimated at \$1,705,600 for the School Resource Officers. The impact on State EFA appropriations and EIA teacher salary supplement funds depends on the number of expelled or suspended students who choose to attend an alternative school. The extent to which the state chooses to appropriate funds to cover construction and salary expenses for additional teachers at the school districts is at the General Assembly's discretion. The impact on SLED for additional drug dog teams depends on the number of requests for such searches.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

Section 1 of the Bill states that with funds appropriated by the General Assembly, a school resource officer (SRO) shall be provided by the governing body of a municipality or county for each middle school or high school within its jurisdiction. There would be no impact on local governments unless State funding is not adequate to cover all cost associated with an SRO including salary, fringe benefits and supporting equipment.

SPECIAL NOTES:

None.

Approved by:



Harry Bell
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget